

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An isolated proteoglycan composition ~~which is derived from a water extract of cartilage of cartilaginous fish and whose main component;~~
 - (a) is derived from a water extract of cartilage of cartilaginous fish;
 - (b) has a molecular weight of 500 kDa or more;
 - (c) is insoluble in an alcohol; and
 - (d) has a glycosaminoglycan part mainly composed of chondroitin sulfate C.
2. The proteoglycan composition of Claim 1, wherein ~~it is insoluble in an alcohol~~ the main component has an amino acid composition as shown in Figure 2.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The proteoglycan composition of ~~any one of~~ Claim 1, wherein [[it]] the composition has a matrix metalloprotease-inhibiting activity.
5. (Previously presented) The proteoglycan of Claim 4, wherein the matrix metalloprotease is MMP-9, and the inhibiting activity is an effect of canceling a reduction in an MMP-9-inhibiting activity in the blood serum of a tumor-bearing animal fed on a 0.4% by weight-product-containing feed or an effect of increasing, by at least 5%, an MMP-9-inhibiting activity in the blood serum of a tumor-bearing animal fed on a 0.4% by weight-product-containing feed.
6. (Previously presented) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it has an effect of increasing a cathepsin B-inhibiting activity when taken in an effective amount into a living body.
7. (Previously presented) The proteoglycan of Claim 1, wherein it has an activity of increasing the amount of haptoglobin in blood serum when taken in an effective amount into a living body.

8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the proteoglycan composition of any one of Claims 1 or 4 to 7 as an active ingredient.
11. (Currently amended) A method of producing ~~the a~~ a proteoglycan composition ~~of any one of Claims 1 to 7~~, comprising the steps of:
 - pulverizing cartilaginous fish-derived cartilage into a pulverized product with an average particle diameter of 100 μm or less;
 - adding water to the pulverized product and extracting water-soluble components from it;
 - separating an aqueous phase that contains the extracted water-soluble components;
~~and~~
 - adding an alcohol to the aqueous phase to produce a precipitate, and
gel filtration purification of the precipitate to isolate the extracted water-soluble components having a gel filtration estimated molecular weight of 500 kDa or more.
12. (New) The proteoglycan composition produced by the process of claim 11.